



Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Jon Sanabria
Acting Director of Planning

December 09, 2009

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Jon Sanabria
Acting Director of Planning

**SUBJECT: QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT ON BOARD MOTION REGARDING
RURAL ISSUES AND THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE
(December 9, 2008, Item 39-B)**

On December 9, 2008 your Board instructed the Director of Planning to take the following actions:

1. Formulate draft standards for development of rural communities within the General Plan Update;
2. Identify provisions that relate to development of rural communities in future outreach efforts concerning the General Plan Update;
3. Make a presentation to the Association of Rural Town Councils no later than April of 2009 concerning rural issues and the General Plan Update; and,
4. Report back to the Board of Supervisors every 90 days identifying how the Department is addressing rural issues in the General Plan Update.

This is the fourth quarterly status report as directed by your Board motion and it summarizes the progress the Department of Regional Planning has made in addressing the actions outlined above.

The Draft General Plan publicly released in 2008 is now being comprehensively revised to account for recent State laws that require general plans to address climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The revised Draft General Plan will ensure that the County's land use policies are employed strategically to direct the majority of future growth away from rural areas and into suburban and urban areas with greater access to infrastructure, transit, and regional commercial centers. Keeping rural

issues at the forefront in the revision of this complex policy document will ensure that the uniqueness and role of rural communities in Los Angeles County is not overlooked.

The Department of Regional Planning is incorporating into the revised Draft General Plan what it has learned from its collaboration with the Association of Rural Town Councils and its outreach to rural residents. When adopted, the General Plan will serve as the foundation countywide policy document that guides long range development. It will address multiple and complex issues such as land use, mobility, preservation of open space, water availability, natural resource protection, hazards, infrastructure adequacy, housing, and climate change that all residents face. The General Plan will establish the framework for the protection of rural communities and support the further clarification of rural protection in local plans such as the update of the Antelope Valley Area Plan.

Staff will continue to reach out to rural residents and work with the dedicated and informed representatives of the Association of Rural Town Councils as the Draft General Plan is being revised. As instructed by your Board, future outreach efforts will clarify the unique role that rural communities have in the update of the Los Angeles County General Plan. The next quarterly report on rural issues and the General Plan Update will be delivered on March 9, 2010.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Mark Herwick of my staff at (213) 974-6423 or by email at mherwick@planning.lacounty.gov. Our office hours are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We are closed on Fridays.

JS:RCH:MSH

c: Chief Executive Officer, Attn: Lari Sheehan
Acting County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Wayne Argo, President, Association of Rural Town Councils